

What is claimed is:

1. A method of inspecting influence of stray light which occurs in a radiation image reader equipped with horizontal scanning means for scanning excitation light on a storable fluorescent sheet, having stored and recorded a radiation image, in a horizontal scanning direction, vertical scanning means for scanning said storable fluorescent sheet in a vertical scanning direction approximately perpendicular to said horizontal scanning direction, and reading means for obtaining an image signal which represents said radiation image by photoelectrically reading said radiation image, stored and recorded in said storable fluorescent sheet, by the horizontal scanning of said excitation light; said inspection method comprising the steps of:

preparing a storable fluorescent inspection sheet that has stored and recorded a radiation inspection image which has a density pattern in which one or more low-density and high-density regions having a contrast difference of at least 1:20 are arrayed in said horizontal scanning direction;

obtaining an image inspection signal representing said radiation inspection image, by photoelectrically reading said radiation inspection image from said storable fluorescent inspection sheet with said reading means; and

inspecting said influence of stray light, based on an image reproduced from said image inspection signal.

2. The inspection method as set forth in claim 1, wherein a boundary line, in said radiation inspection image,

between said low-density and high-density regions is constructed by a straight line and is inclined with respect to said horizontal scanning direction so that it intersects both edges of said radiation inspection image which extend in said vertical scanning direction.

3. The inspection method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said density pattern in said radiation inspection image includes two high-density regions and one low-density region, said regions being arrayed in said horizontal scanning direction in the order of one high-density region, the low-density region, and the other high-density region.

4. A storable fluorescent inspection sheet having stored and recorded a radiation inspection image that has a density pattern in which one or more low-density and high-density regions having a contrast difference of at least 1:20 are arrayed in said horizontal scanning direction.

5. The storable fluorescent inspection sheet as set forth in claim 4, wherein a boundary line, in said radiation inspection image, between said low-density and high-density regions is constructed by a straight line and is inclined with respect to said horizontal scanning direction so that it intersects both edges of said radiation inspection image which extend in said vertical scanning direction.

6. The storable fluorescent inspection sheet as set forth in claim 5, wherein said density pattern in said radiation inspection image includes two high-density regions and one

low-density region, said regions being arrayed in said horizontal scanning direction in the order of one high-density region, the low-density region, and the other high-density region.

7. A method of generating the storable fluorescent inspection sheet as set forth in any one of claims 4 through 6, comprising the steps of:

disposing a radiation shielding member at a position corresponding to said density pattern on a storable fluorescent sheet;

illuminating said storable fluorescent sheet, on which said shielding member has been disposed, with a dose of radiation that corresponds to said contrast difference; and

storing and recording said radiation inspection image in said storable fluorescent sheet, by repeating the disposition of said radiation shielding member and the illumination of said radiation, with respect said storable fluorescent sheet until said density pattern is obtained.

8. A method of generating the storable fluorescent inspection sheet as set forth in any one of claims 4 through 6, comprising the steps of:

disposing a radiation transmittable member at a position corresponding to said density pattern on a storable fluorescent sheet, the radiation transmittable member having a radiation transmission factor which corresponds to said contrast difference; and

storing and recording said radiation inspection image

in said storable fluorescent sheet, by illuminating said storable fluorescent sheet, on which said radiation transmittable member has been disposed, with a dose of radiation that corresponds to said contrast difference.